



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Breck Daughtrey, City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meeting

March 11, 2013

Attached are the minutes of the City Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

Breck

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2013

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Burfoot, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn. Mr. Protogyrou arrived at 3:55 due to a travel delay.

He thereupon called on the City Manager to review the agenda. This being done, the Mayor called for council interests.

A. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Riddick asked again about considering a stipend for the City Planning Commission.
2. Mayor Fraim asked the City Manager for a presentation on the transportation bill which is House Bill 2313.
3. Councilman Smigiel asked for a presentation on tax exemptions.
4. Council commented as follows on the Education agenda item:
Vice Mayor Burfoot stressed that Council needs to meet with the School Board for meaningful discussion rather than just presentations. He stated that before a tax increase is considered that he would like to have more information as to how the funding will improve test scores, technology, et cetera. In addition, he asked for information on which programs will be funded or eliminated. He expressed disappointment that last year a program was eliminated which gave students college credits and that Council had not been given information concerning that. He stated that those types of programs are beneficial and encourage families to keep their children in public schools. Councilwoman Whibley echoed Vice Mayor Burfoot's concerns and added that she would like specific information as to how many literacy teachers and math specialists are needed. Councilman Smigiel noted that the Federal budget cuts will affect Impact Aid checks and construction dollars for Camp Allen. Mayor Fraim

noted that the School Board is in the process of determining their budget and can meet with Council when they have it finalized.

B. SCOPE MASTER PLAN

John Rhamstine, Director of Civic Facilities, reported as follows:

- Scope and Chrysler Hall are 40 years old and while improvements have been made, the facilities still have physical limitations.
- Improvements are now needed to the concourse and plaza areas, to women's restroom's, for additional food and beverage capacity, better access to the plaza and to the box office.
- Conceptual drawings for Scope at the plaza were presented.
- With council's concurrence, the plans will be presented to Design Review and the Planning Commission.
- Mr. Burfoot inquired about naming rights. Mr. Rhamstine responded this is being explored actively.
- Mr. Smigiel asked why these improvements are being proposed and asked who and what is the city missing without these improvements. He asked where the study is that projects what the benefits would be if these improvements are made.
- Dr. Whibley asked where the data is to support the proposed improvements.
- Mayor Fraim noted the council inherited the building and that it needs to be maintained and improved so the city doesn't embarrass itself when it sells a ticket. He also said the spin off benefits for downtown restaurants and other businesses need to be calculated.
- Mayor Fraim concluded the discussion by asking the Manager for a report on what)1 we expect the projected return on this type of investment to be, b) we've already invested over time and c) the projected ten-year plan will be.

C. DOWNTOWN ARTS AND DESIGN DISTRICT

Ron Williams, Assistant City Manager, reported as follows:

- PlaNorfolk 2030 includes an action to support creation of one or more Arts Districts.
- The Manager created a workgroup to explore an Arts District north of Brambleton and has asked Urban Design Associates to develop a plan by May 2013.
- A district has been proposed for the downtown area that encompasses the areas north of Brambleton.
- A stockholder workshop will be held March 14th with UDA, a Better Block Demonstration on April 12-13, a zoning review will be completed and economic incentives recommendations, goals and objectives developed for council consideration.

D. FOOD TRUCKS IN DOWNTOWN

Ron Williams, Assistant City Manager, reported as follows:

- The administration asked whether council wants to bring the Planning Commission recommendation forward.
- Amended recommendations from the administration were reviewed.

After discussion it was decided to bring an Ordinance for action in April.

E. EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Assistant City Manager, reported as follows:

- Support for the schools is 37.8% of the City's FY2013 General Fund Budget.
- This amount does not include additional support provided to the school system.
- Norfolk's average daily membership has declined 8.3% or 2729 from FY2007 to FY2013 and city support has increased while average daily membership has decreased.

Council discussion occurred over where the students were going with several thoughts expressed about the need to close certain schools and to support the board's decisions to do so.

Mayor Fraim asked for an explanation of the technology support.

Mr. Smigiel asked if there was a provision for updating the MGT School Facilities report. The manager answered there was not.

Mayor Fraim proposed that the City be responsible for building the schools and turn the buildings over to the school system which would help them because of their not having enough staff to manage construction projects.